Jan. 8,9, 1999

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on January 8 and 9 in St. John's. This edition of Executive Notes is designed to keep you informed and up to date on activities of Provincial Executive. The following is a summary of major decisions and discussions occurring at the Executive Meeting. For further information on these issues, please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities
As identified in previous editions of Executive Notes, the four priorities for the Association, on behalf of teachers, for this school year are quality of work life, professional development restructuring, meeting membership demands, and teacher certification. There has been continual lobbying and liaison with the Department of Education on these areas of concern and what is happening to teachers at the classroom level. The personal and professional lives of teachers is of the utmost importance in all activities and decisions of Provincial Executive. For further information contact Brendan Doyle, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Labrador West Negotiations
The President of Labrador West Branch, Darryn Cramm, presented the opening package for Labrador West Negotiations to Provincial Executive. The local executive and its negotiating team anticipate resuming negotiations early in the new year in an attempt to conclude a full round of bargaining. Provincial Executive approved the opening package. For further information contact Perry Downey, Benefits and Economics Services Division.

Labrador Benefits Package
A meeting of the six unions was scheduled for January 12. The groups have finalized a package for presentation to government and a meeting is scheduled for January 25. For further information contact Edward Hancock, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

NLTA Budget
A major portion of this meeting involved review of the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 budgets for NLTA. There was extensive discussion before a budget was approved. The draft Association budgets will be presented to Joint Council for information. Following the review by Joint Council, Executive will make recommendations to the 1999 BGM re: the budgets. For further information contact Fred Douglas, Chair, Finance and Property, or Jim Fox, Treasurer, NLTA.

NLTA Policy Review
An extensive review of the policies of NLTA has been carried out by the standing committees and staff of the Association. A report was presented to Provincial Executive for review and approval. Amendments to Association policy were accepted and will be referred to Convention for examina-tion and ratification. For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Teachers in Cyberspace

There was a general discussion by Provincial Executive about recent correspondence and questions on Teachers in Cyberspace (TIC). The following motion was approved by Executive: NLTA will not engage in dialogue on Teachers in Cyberspace (TIC) on hypothetical situations wherein the NLTA is openly providing a legal interpretation on the rights and responsibilities of teachers. Furthermore, the Association will cease answering specific questions via TIC that could prejudicially affect our members by someone in the future using those answers to help defeat a teacher in the grievance/ arbitration process.

For further information contact Brendan Doyle, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees

After extensive discussion and deliberation, Provincial Executive made the following decisions and recommendations:

- NLTA will consult with district personnel regarding the development of a collegial/ collaborative model for teacher professional growth plans to support ongoing formative evaluation.
- PITCOM will investigate the possibility of private/public partnerships to assist in funding professional development such as the province-wide close out [under consideration by NLTA for promotion at the Provincial Advisory Committee on Professional Development], through the provision of funding and/or other resources.
- The ad hoc committee on Teacher Certification will consider the professional development portfolio as a starting point for promoting professional growth. The committee will draft specific guidelines regarding the establishment and maintenance of such a portfolio to be submitted to PITCOM for further consideration and approval.
- Due to the demise and decline of teacher morale in the province, that the President of NLTA use every opportunity to ensure that all partners in education are accurately aware of the low morale of teachers and the consequences of such on the overall teaching environment.
- NLTA will seek compensation through leave or extra pay for teachers/administrators who serve on school councils and that this be included in Association Policy in EG 20, No. 4.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association will be approached and reminded of their responsibility in administering the Student Assistants' contract. In particular, it needs to be highlighted that problems occur with hiring and seniority when School Administrators are given this responsibility.
- The Call for Action on Special Matters: the Report of the Review of Special Education will be released by the President of NLTA at a news conference as soon as possible. Various educational stakeholders will be invited to attend. If adequate public response is generated following the press conference the Association, working in collaboration with all interested partners, will plan a public consultation/ information program.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the appropriate member of the Administrative Staff.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for February 3, 4, and 5 in St. John's. It will be followed by a Joint Council meeting on Friday afternoon/evening and Saturday, February 6 at Holiday Inn, St. John's. For further information contact Geralyn Costello Assistant to the President.

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